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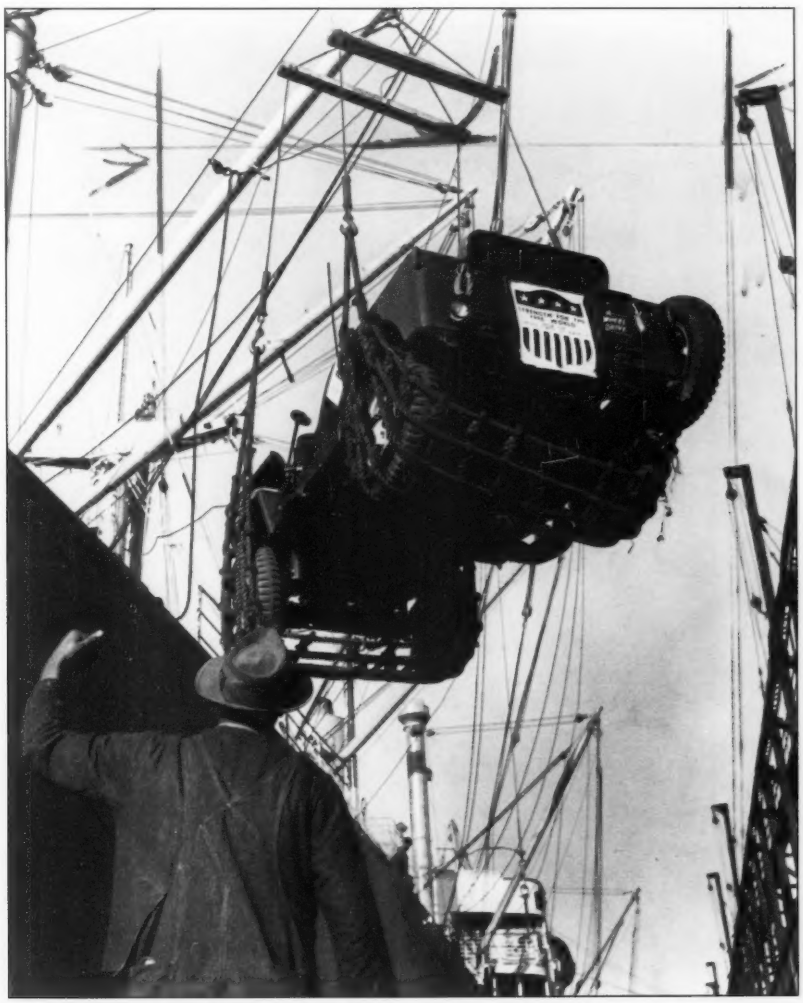

50th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 56, No. 11
June 23, 1997

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: "Marshall Plan Dons Uniform," 1955. Congress required that items shipped under the Marshall Plan be clearly marked so that there could be no mistake as to who had supplied the assistance. The original Marshall Plan label, "For European Recovery — Supplied by the United States of America, " was replaced in 1955 with "Strength for the Free World — From the United States of America," which appears on the jeep in this photograph. The new slogan more accurately represented the role of the Economic Co-operation Administration (ECA), which had begun operating in the Far East as well as in the original countries of Europe. As the Cold War deepened, the ECA developed beyond the original goal of recovery for Europe and became more concerned with bolstering the free world against communism. *New York World Telegram and Sun Collection, Prints and Photographs Division*

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Cover Story: This year is the 50th anniversary of the Economic Recovery Program for postwar Europe. The program eventually came to be known as the Marshall Plan, for George C. Marshall, whose influence was so crucial to the plan's success. A small Library exhibition details the plan's history. 222

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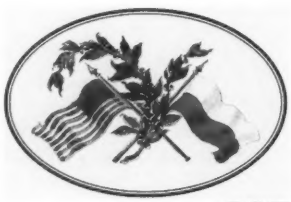

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NOTICE: Beginning this July, the LC *Information Bulletin* will switch from a biweekly to a monthly publication, due to budgetary constraints. It will, however, continue to report on the policies, programs and events of the Library to an audience that includes the U.S. Congress, libraries, learned institutions and the media.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued monthly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available over the Internet. On World Wide Web, use the following addresses: http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib (issues 1997 and on). For issues before 1997, connect to marvel.loc.gov and look under "Events, Facilities, Publications, and Services" or use this address: gopher://marvel.loc.gov/11/loc/pubs/lcib.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue SE, Washington DC 20540-1610, email lcib@loc.gov.

GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
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Yusef El-Amin

Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) and Rep. Rick White (R-Wash.) preside at the May 13 Congressional Internet Caucus, held at the Library.

Making Access Easier

Congressional Internet Caucus Meets in Digital Library

During the first congressional hearing ever held in the Digital Library Visitors' Center, Dr. Billington and representatives from Congress, industry and education engaged in a 90-minute discussion on how to increase access to government information via the Internet.

The May 13 Congressional Internet Caucus hearing on "Making Access Easier" was co-chaired by Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.), Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif.) and Rep. Rick White (R-Wash.), who noted that, although the availability of information on the Internet is "consistent with the principles of democracy," there is some doubt as to whether it will "reach its potential."

The event was "cybercast" live via the Internet site called democracy.net, and students from Bainbridge Island, Wash.; Target Range Mont.; and East Palo Alto, Calif. submitted questions for the panelists.

Rep. White summed up the problem as being one of "so much information and so many resources," making it difficult for users to find just what they need. "The Internet may one day drown in its own abundance," he predicted, unless information providers determine ways to improve search capabilities.

Rep. Eshoo also praised the democratic nature of the Internet, "which provides a very important platform for the average person to espouse his or her views, while decrying that "there is too little known about the positive information available. We hear too much about the pornography and availability of information about making bombs.

"Let's focus on the good stuff, especially on what is available from the federal government," she added.

"One of the best perks we [in Congress] have in Washington is access to the greatest repository of knowledge in the world — the Library of Congress," she said, as she looked toward Dr. Billington, seated at the witness table across from her. "We enrich democracy by making [the Library's collections] available to all."

Dr. Billington re-emphasized Rep. Eshoo's remarks as he told the Congress members how the Library is providing "positive" content on its Internet site (www.loc.gov), "providing as many collections as possible free."

He mentioned the Library's most important electronic initiatives, such as the 18 collections form American Memory; the congressional database

Yusef El-Amin

Dr. Billington makes a point to the members of Congress as Katherine Seelman, director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and Barbara Smith of Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries listen.

Yusef El-Amin

Yusef El-Amin

Yusef El-Amin

Srinija Srinivasan, Yahoo! manager ; Jonah Seiger of democracy.net; and Christopher Hedrick of Libraries Online represented industry; Linda Price, librarian an Hine Junior High in Washington, D.C., urged equal access to the Internet; Rep. Eshoo praised the democratic nature of the Internet.

THOMAS, which in addition to the content already available, will soon offer the text of congressional hearings; exhibitions; the Global Legal Information Network; and CORDS (Copyright Office Electronic Registration, Recordation and Deposit System).

"The information we provide is educational and inspirational to learners of all ages," he said.

Katherine D. Seelman, director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in the U.S. Department of Education, emphasized the need to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to the Internet. "Giving access to every student means every student." She urged the federal government to review the guidelines on accessibility and to provide the funds to "instruct teachers how to use the [special] technology."

Representing the American Library Association (ALA) was Barbara Smith of Montgomery County (Md.) Public Libraries. She pointed out that "public libraries are the places where many people begin to use the Internet," and that Maryland, through its Sailor project, offers free electronic access to the state's 24 library systems.

Sen. Burns told how his daughter had used the Internet from her home in her postgraduate medical work. He asked Dr. Billington, for a student from Target Range, whether the Declaration of Independence is on the Internet.

"I am sure it is," the Librarian replied, adding that "the draft is also available, an even more interesting document than the final version, because it shows the comments of Benjamin Franklin and John Adams."

"We are excited about this," Sen. Burns said, "especially about bringing access to people in remote areas. I have a distance problem [in the vast state of Montana], and the only way to address that is with the Internet."

One of the students in Rep. Eshoo's district wanted to know whether "traditional libraries will go out of business."

No, Dr. Billington assured her. "There is a beautiful symphony among what is available on-line and what is not. The Internet is a powerful supplement for books and traditional library services — not a replacement."

Panel 2 consisted of representatives from Yahoo!, an Internet search "engine"; the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT), a nonprofit public interest group whose mission is to increase access to federal information using the Internet; and Libraries Online, a Microsoft, ALA and Technology Resource Institute initiative that is providing software and hardware to 41 library systems across the country.

When Yahoo! Manager Srinija Srinivasan mentioned the Web sites she believes provide important content on the Internet, LC's site was high on her list, as was the Learning Page, an initiative geared to the K-12 audience developed by LC's NDLP.

Christopher Hedrick of Libraries Online answered his own question "Why do we do it?" with "to bridge the information gap. Without access [for all] we will become a divided society."

Jonah Seiger of democracy.net, a project of the CDT, emphasized that "as the nation moves into the Information Age, the Internet is becoming an increasingly important means for citizens to access government. Indeed, as evidenced by the popularity of sites like [LC's] THOMAS [with 8 million 'hits' per month], and the ever increasing number of congressional and other federal Web sites, the Internet has already shown itself to be a valuable tool to increase access."

"The federal government has so far done a terrific job" in providing electronic information, Ms. Srinivasan said.

On Panel 3, Linda Price, librarian and Internet coordinator at Hine Junior High School in Southeast Washington, D.C., was joined by Mark Albertson, manager of corporate relations for Amdahl, an information technology company in Sunnyvale, Calif.

"I represent those of us who want equal access to all the information on the Internet," Ms. Price said. According to her, 90 percent of Hine's classes are "wired." "But the next step is staff training." Despite economic constraints, the school has managed to provide hypertext markup language training to students, who have mounted a Web site for the school.

Echoing Ms. Price's point on the need for training, Mr. Albertson noted how Amdahl in California has organized volunteer staff to work in the communities to show them how to make use of electronic technologies. "We found that training was a bigger problem than [the lack of] equipment."

Reps. Eshoo and White concluded the hearing by saying that they had learned many things they did not know before. And Rep. Eshoo said that not only had the session been informative, it had been "fun."

— Guy Lamolinara

A Home for Ralph Ellison's Work

Fanny McConnell Ellison Visits Library

On May 1, Fanny McConnell Ellison, widow of Ralph Ellison (1914-94), visited the Library to inspect one of the special meeting rooms that houses the Ralph Ellison collection in the Northwest Pavilion in the Jefferson Building. The donation of the Ellison papers to the Library was announced in February 1996, and the full collection will be received over a four-year period.

Alice Birney, the American literature specialist in the Manuscript Division, has responsibility for the papers. Upon completion of the terms of acquisition, the Library will receive approximately 140 cartons of various sizes containing manuscript drafts and notes for both published and unpublished works, speeches, correspondence, files, photographs and recordings and Ellison's entire working library.

As Ellison's papers are unpacked and organized, an archivist will prepare a "finding aid," an unpublished register that describes the material.

Soon, the public will have the opportunity to view Ralph Ellison's "working library," which will be displayed near the Great Hall, in keeping with his wishes that it be housed in a unique institution that belongs to all Americans.

Yvonne French

Fanny McConnell Ellison

Mellon Fellowships Awarded

Five Grants Support Promising Scholars

The Library's Office of Scholarly Programs has announced the results of the first Mellon Foreign Area Fellowship competition. The postdoctoral fellowships, made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, were designed to support research that uses the Library's unrivaled foreign-language and area-studies collections. The fellowships will help less well-established American scholars as they embark on a second major research topic following their dissertations.

Stipends of $3,000 per month, for periods of six or nine months, were awarded to Jeffrey M. Bale, Ann Farnsworth-Alvear, Cheryl Haldane, Thomas E. Keirstead, and Frans Coetzee and Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee (who will share their award).

"These fellowships will provide needed support to promising scholars at an important time in their careers," said Prosser Gifford, director of the Office of Scholarly Programs. "The fellowships will promote use of the Library's rich cultural resources, assembled from around the globe, while at the same time strengthen American expertise in the interpretation of foreign-language materials," he added.

Having fellows in residence will also enhance the knowledge and skills of the Library's own staff in research trends and topics, through occasional gatherings in which fellows will share their insights and experiences.

The fellowships were first announced in January 1997. In the three months that applications were accepted, the Office of Scholarly Programs fielded more than 300 inquiries about the program and received more than 70 applications. "The awarding of this year's fellowships was particularly difficult," Mr. Gifford observed, because aside from establishing new procedures and literature for such a program, "the quality and variety of applications made the selection daunting. Nearly all applicants presented qualifications and proposals worthy of serious pursuit and support."

All applications were reviewed for basic criteria, such as U.S. citizenship or residency, holding a Ph.D. degree and being at an appropriate career level. Applications were then grouped into area of language specialty and/or geographic region and carefully reviewed by specialists familiar with both the subject matter and the library resources proposed for use. Then, other scholars reviewed projects from all of the regions and made the final determination of the awards. Along with such critical factors as the originality and significance of the proposed project, the extent to which the special foreign-language resources of the Library of Congress would be used was also considered. The selected applications proposed research that embodies most fully the purposes and goals of the program.

The research project of Jeffrey M. Bale (Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Ore.), "Codename 'Gladio': Clandestine Anti-Communist Stay-Behind Networks and Paramilitary Violence in Cold War Europe, 1950-1990," examines the network of underground guerrilla organizations set up in several European countries during the 1950s. He will explore the historical connections between these groups, particularly in Belgium, Italy, Greece and Switzerland, and later anti-constitutional political activities affecting

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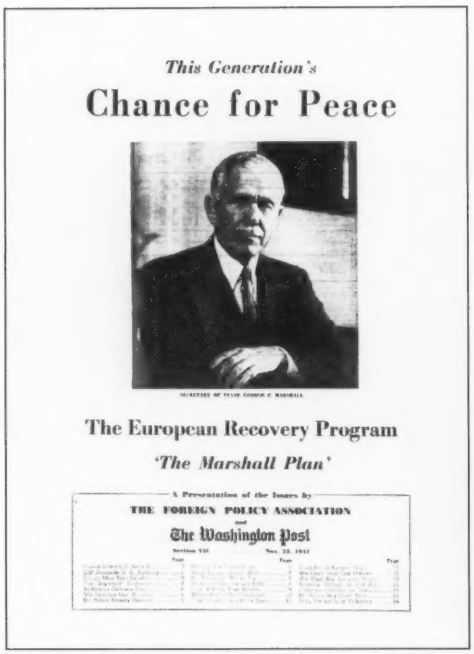


The Washington Post, November 23, 1947, printed a special section devoted to the plan (image available in on-line exhibition only). *Used by permission of* The Washington Post; a cartoon by Edwin Marcus, which appeared in *The New York Times* March 14, 1948, focused on the controversy surrounding the plan. *Used by permission of the Marcus family*

For European Recovery

Exhibition Celebrates 50th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan

by Martha Hopkins

In a speech delivered at the Harvard University commencement on June 5, 1947, Secretary of State George Catlett Marshall (1880-1959) proposed a solution to the disintegrating economic and social conditions that faced Europeans in the aftermath of World War II. Raw materials and food were in short supply, causing widespread hunger, unemployment and housing shortages; war-damaged industries needed machinery and capital before production could be resumed. Marshall's suggestion that the European nations set up a reconstruction program with U.S. assistance marked the official beginning of the Economic Recovery Program (ERP).

That program is better known as the Marshall Plan and is the subject of a small exhibition at the Library called "For European Recovery: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Marshall Plan."

Under the program, the United States provided aid to prevent starvation in the major war areas, repair the devastation of those areas as quickly as possible and begin economic reconstruction. The plan had two major aims: preventing the spread of communism in Western Europe and stabilizing the international order to favor development of political democracies and free-market economies.

Although others helped draft the Economic Assistance Act of 1948 that established the ERP, the plan was named for George C. Marshall because of his indispensable role, his influence and his extraordinary prestige in the minds of Congress and the American people. As army chief of staff, he exerted tremendous influence during the war and afterward assumed key civilian posts in the Truman administration. Marshall became secretary of state in 1947 and later served as secretary of defense. For his efforts in reviving Europe, he won the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the first professional soldier to receive it.

During the four years in which the Marshall Plan was formally in operation, Congress appropriated $13.3 billion. The United States also benefited from the plan by developing valuable trading partners and reliable allies among the West European nations. Even more important were the many ties of individual and collective friendship that developed between the United States and Europe.

National Archives and Records Administration

Leaders of the Marshall Plan: President Truman, George Marshall, Paul Hoffman and Averell Harriman

A milestone in the growth of U.S. world leadership, the Marshall Plan has had far-reaching consequences. In the short run, it relieved widespread privation and averted the threat of a serious economic depression. In the long run, it enabled the West European nations to recover and maintain economic and political independence. It also paved the way for other forms of international cooperation such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCED), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and today's European Union.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Marshall's speech, the Library of Congress is presenting this display on the origins and effects of the Marshall Plan. It features photographs and cartoons from the Prints and Photographs Division and items from the papers of Averell Harriman, the ERP special representative in Europe from 1948 to 1950, whose collection in the Library's Manuscript Division contains photographs, letters, memos and printed material that document the early days of this acclaimed international initiative. Following are descriptions of some of the exhibition items:

Fears of Communist Domination

A cartoon by Edwin Marcus (1885-1961), which appeared in *The New York Times* on March 14, 1948 (see page 222), comments on the debate in the U.S. Congress over Marshall Plan legislation. Opponents argued that the costs of such a massive program would severely damage the domestic economy. Those in favor, whose view Marcus presents, maintained that the delay in providing aid to the war-impoverished countries of Europe put them in danger of Soviet domination, represented in the drawing by the Russian bear. Ultimately, events abroad proved more persuasive than even the strongest Marshall Plan supporters. On Feb. 25, 1948, several weeks before the cartoon was published, a Soviet-backed, communist coup took place in Czechoslovakia. The event reduced opposition to the Marshall Plan, and Congress finally approved the bill in April 1948, 10 months after it was originally proposed.

Truman Signs the Economic Assistance Act

Surrounded by members of Congress and his Cabinet, on April 3, 1948, President Harry S Truman (1884-1972) signed the Foreign Assistance Act, the legislation establishing the Marshall Plan. His official statement said, "Few presidents have had the opportunity to sign legislation of such importance. ... This measure is America's answer to the challenge facing the free world today." The Marshall Plan was a bipartisan effort — proposed by a Democratic president and enacted into law by a Republican Congress in a hotly contested presidential election year.

Leaders of the Marshall Plan

On Nov. 29, 1948, Truman conferred with the top leaders of the Marshall Plan — George C. Marshall (1880-1959), Paul G. Hoffman (1891-1974) and Averell Harriman (1891-1986) (see photo this page). Hoffman was presi-

The on-line version of the Library's Marshall Plan exhibition was featured at a conference on "Bridging the Atlantic: People to People Links," held at the State Department on May 5-6.

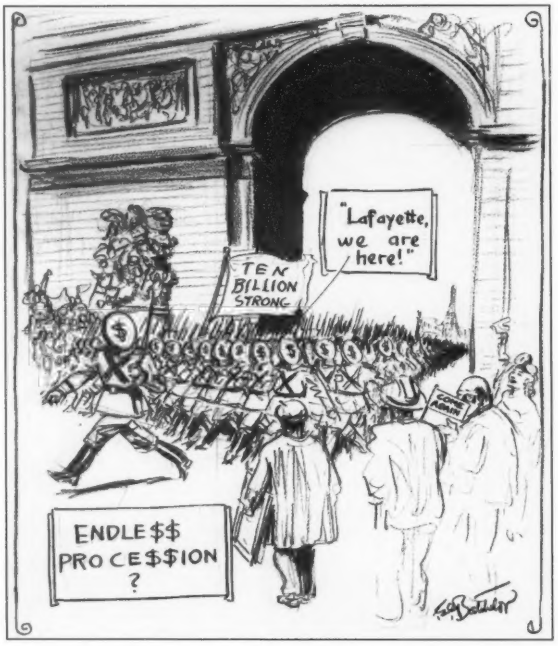
Cosponsored by the State Department, the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), the European Union and the German Marshall Fund, the conference explored new forms of cooperation between European and U.S. educational institutions, foundations, libraries and nongovernmental organizations.

Working with the Library's European Division, the Dutch National Library created its own on-line Marshall Plan exhibit featuring materials from the Dutch collections relating to the Marshall Plan and its implementation in the Netherlands. The Library exhibit and the Dutch exhibit were linked on the World Wide Web, allowing users to view the materials from both libraries.

The conference resulted in a series of recommendations for expanded transatlantic cooperation — including in the area of digital libraries — which in turn were endorsed by the U.S. and European governments during the U.S.-European Union summit in The Hague on May 27-28. USIA showcased the U.S.-Netherlands pilot project to the international press at the summit.

Other national libraries in Europe are committed to joining the project in the coming months. Besides the Marshall Plan, candidate topics for U.S.-European digital-library cooperation include immigration and exile literature.

The Dutch on-line exhibition can be examined at http://www.konbib.nl/marshall.



"Can He Block It?" ca. 1947 by Edwin Marcus, satirizes Stalin's reaction to the Marshall Plan. *Used by permission of the Marcus family;* Clarence Batchelor's cartoon "Endle$$ Proce$$ion," ca. 1953, is a cynical comment on aid to France. *Used by permission of the* New York Daily News; in "The American Bludgeon in the Solution of Market Problems," from the Soviet paper *Izvestiya* (Nov. 3, 1949), Paul Hoffman, head of the Economic Cooperation Administration, attacks the sovereignty as well as the tariff barriers of Marshall Plan countries with a club of dollars.

dent of the Studebaker automobile corporation when Truman appointed him head of the Economic Cooperation Administration, the agency that operated the Economic Recovery Program. He was chosen because Congress thought that the ERP could best be run by people with business and financial experience. Hoffman was a first-rate manager whose tact, persuasiveness and commitment to ERP goals proved to be valuable assets. Harriman, also an experienced businessman, held the second-most-important post, special representative to the countries participating in the Marshall Plan. Before becoming secretary of commerce in the Truman administration, he had served in two crucial posts during World War II, as Lend-Lease representative in Britain and then as U.S. ambassador to Moscow.

Marshall Plan Countries

Almost all European nations outside the Soviet bloc were members of the plan from the beginning. The two exceptions were Spain, which as a dictatorship under Franco was not invited to participate, and West Germany, which was under Allied occupation and did not become a full member until 1949, after a significant measure of self-government had been restored. After two years of the plan, many economic measures, such as agriculture, industry and foreign-trade, were at or near prewar levels, and industrial production was 15 percent above the 1938 level.

A Communist Critique of the Marshall Plan

As the Marshall Plan became established, communist opposition grew. Criticism was especially strong in November 1949, after Paul Hoffman, head of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA), spoke to the Council of the European Economic Cooperation Association. Addressing the representatives of the countries involved in the plan, Hoffman suggested creating a united West European market based on elimination of customs barriers and tariffs. By promoting European economic integration, the

ECA laid the foundation for the founding of the European Economic Community in the 1950s and for today's European Union. The French newspaper *L'Humanité* reacted like many other communist publications, claiming that "after disorganizing the national economies of the countries which are under the American yoke, American leaders now intend conclusively to subjugate the economy of these countries to their own interests." In a cartoon from the Soviet paper *Izvestiya*, Hoffman, portrayed as a stereotypical fat capitalist, attacks the sovereignty as well as the tariff barriers of Marshall Plan countries with a club of dollars (see page 224).

Soviet Opposition to the Marshall Plan

A cartoon by Edwin Marcus (1885-1961) refers to opposition to the Marshall Plan by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin (1879-1953), pictured as a basketball player (see page 224). Stalin regarded the plan's vision of an integrated European market with considerable freedom of movement, goods, services, information and, inevitably, people, as incompatible with his economic, political and foreign-policy goals. In June 1947, delegates from France, Great Britain and the Soviet Union met in Paris to discuss Marshall's proposal. After several days, Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav M. Molotov walked out, stating that the Soviet government "rejects this plan as totally unsatisfactory." Viewed by Western leaders as one more refusal to support postwar stabilization efforts, Molotov's action contributed to the growth of Cold War tensions. In addition to declining to participate in the Marshall Plan itself, the Soviet Union prevented the East European countries under its control from taking part. Subsequent Soviet propaganda portrayed the plan as an American plot to subjugate Western Europe.

A Negative View of Aid to Europe

Although the Marshall Plan and other assistance programs were generally admired and considered a success, not every American supported them. A cartoon by Clarence Batchelor cynically comments on massive U.S. aid to postwar France by showing marchers with dollar coins as heads endlessly marching through Paris's Arc de Triomphe (see page 224). "Lafayette, we are here" was a popular phrase among World War I soldiers. It was reportedly coined by Gen. John Pershing (1860-1948) at the tomb of the Marquis de Lafayette during ceremonies on July 4, 1917. U.S. assistance was seen as a return for the help that Frenchmen such as Lafayette had rendered during the American Revolution. Batchelor suggests that America's post-World War II aid is an excessive repayment of the old debt.

Benefits for the U.S. Economy

Because Americans feared that after World War II the financial woes of the 1930s could recur, increasing prosperity in the United States was one goal of the Marshall Plan. As a way of boosting exports, the plan had wide appeal to American business people, bankers, workers and farmers. Soon after passage of the Foreign Assistance Act, *Kiplinger Magazine*, a business publication, printed a guide to show its readers how to benefit from the plan. "The Marshall Plan is very much a business plan," it concluded. "At its root is an office and factory and warehouse job. The Marshall Plan means work, and you will be one of the workers." During the years of the plan, when much of the money European participants received was spent on U.S.-produced food and manufactured goods, the American economy flourished.

Shipping Equipment Abroad Under the Marshall Plan

Congress required that items shipped under the Marshall Plan be clearly marked so that there could be no mistake as to who had supplied the assistance. The original Marshall Plan label, "For European Recovery — Supplied by the United States of America," was replaced in 1951 with "Strength for the Free World — From the United States of America." The new slogan more accurately represented the role of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA), which had begun operating in the Far East as well as in the original countries of Europe. As the Cold War deepened, the ECA developed beyond the original goal of recovery for Europe and became more concerned with bolstering the free world against communism.

"For European Recovery: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Marshall Plan" is on view in the Current Events Corridor, first floor of the Madison Building, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. It can also be seen in an expanded version on the Library's Internet site on the at http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/marshall/.

The on-line version contains more items than the physical exhibit. It also takes advantage of the on-line medium to show more of some items than can be shown in a physical exhibit, where only one page opening can be shown at a time. Items offered in full-text versions are: "The Marshall Plan and You," (by permission of the Dutch government), "How to Do Business under the Marshall Plan," from *Kiplinger Magazine*, May 1948 (by permission of *Kiplinger Magazine*), *The Marshall Plan and the Future of U.S.-European Relations* (by permission of the German Information Center, New York) and *The Marshall Plan at the Mid-Mark.*

The most significant full-text item is *The Marshall Plan at the Mid-Mark*, a gift to Averell Harriman that includes a number of photographs showing the history and progress of the plan. This item is not printed, but was especially handmade for Harriman (i.e., the photos are individually pasted in and the text is hand-lettered.) The book is not available anywhere outside the Library of Congress.

Stuttgart — Before and After the Marshall Plan

When World War II ended in May 1945, Europe was in ruins. Once-fertile fields were scarred by bomb craters and tank tracks. In cities, seas of rubble — an estimated 500 million cubic tons of it in Germany alone — surrounded abandoned, gutted buildings. With factories and businesses destroyed, many people were unemployed. Food was so scarce that millions were on the verge of starvation. Photographs of Stuttgart, Germany, taken only eight years apart, record that destruction and document how Marshall Plan aid promoted rapid rebuilding. They appeared in a booklet intended to inform the American public of Germany's gratitude for U.S. aid and the German government's decision to establish a fund as a memorial to the Marshall Plan, the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Establishment of the German Marshall Fund

On June 5, 1972, the 25th anniversary of the announcement of the Marshall Plan, West German Chancellor Willy Brandt (1913-1992) delivered an address at Harvard University commemorating Marshall's speech. After reviewing the significance of the plan and the programs it fostered for European recovery and development, Brandt announced the creation of a Marshall Plan memorial — the German Marshall Fund of the United States. In his speech, Brandt called the fund "an expression of our special gratitude for the American decision in 1947 not to keep us out." Financed by the German government but operating independently in the United States, the fund was established to promote American-European study and research projects. It also funds exchange programs for American and German scholars.

Ms. Hopkins, who curated the Marshall Plan exhibition, is an exhibits director in the Interpretive Programs Office.

Key Dates for the Marshall Plan

March 12, 1947	The "Truman Doctrine," outlined in a presidential speech to Congress, makes it U.S. policy to protect nations threatened by communism.
June 5, 1947	In a speech at the Harvard commencement, Secretary of State George C. Marshall calls for an American plan to help Europe recover from World War II.
June 19, 1947	The British and French Foreign ministers issue a joint communiqué inviting 22 European nations to send representatives to Paris to draw up a cooperative recovery plan.
July 12, 1947	The Conference of European Economic Cooperation, which became the Committee of European Economic Cooperation (CEEC), meets in Paris. The Soviet Union declines to attend and pressures Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary into staying away.
September 1947	The CEEC submits its report estimating needs and the cost of the European Recovery Program (ERP) over four years. It provides for the establishment of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) to coordinate the program from the European side.
February 1948	A Soviet-backed, communist coup occurs in Czechoslovakia.
April 2, 1948	Congress passes the Economic Cooperation Act that authorizes the Marshall Plan. President Truman signs it the next day.
April 1948	Paul Hoffman of Studebaker Corp. is appointed administrator of the Economic Cooperation Agency (ECA), the temporary American agency created to implement the plan. Averell Harriman is appointed special representative of the ECA in Europe.
April 15, 1948	First official meeting of the OEEC in Paris to determine national needs prior to passage of appropriations bill by U.S. Congress.
June 30, 1949	The Federal Republic of Germany officially enters the OEEC in the second year of the program.
Dec. 31, 1951	The ERP ends six months early because of the escalation of the Korean War, which had begun in June 1950. Transfer of funds from the United States to Europe had totaled $13.3 billion.
July 5, 1972	In a speech at the Harvard commencement, West German chancellor Willy Brandt announces creation of the German Marshall Fund to thank the United States for its assistance.

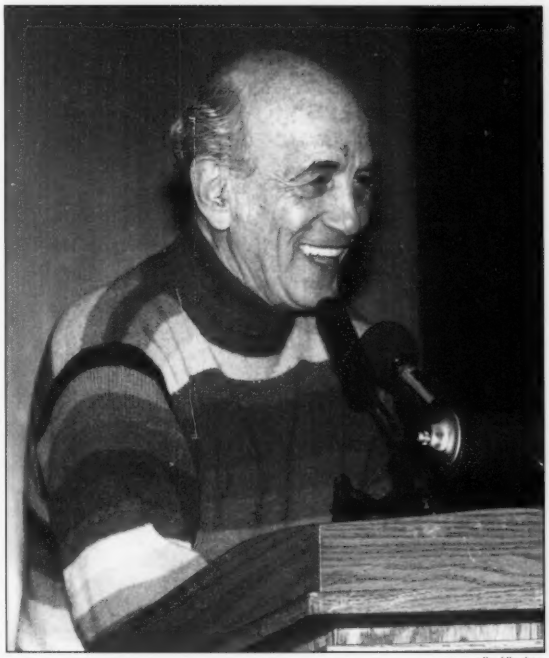
Young at Heart

A Celebration of Remy Charlip

The work and career of Remy Charlip — artist, writer, choreographer, designer and teacher — was celebrated at the annual spring program of the Library's Children's Literature Center held in the Mumford Room on April 24. Mr. Charlip was both guest and performer for the evening, which included poetry, dance, art, conversations and storytelling, all imbued with Mr. Charlip's unique humor and youthful perspective.

Mr. Charlip's diverse career has included performing with John Cage, dancing and designing costumes for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, co-founding the Paper Bag Players, serving as head of the Children's Theater and Literature Department at Sarah Lawrence College, and winning two Village Voice Obie awards, three *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book of the Year citations, and a six-month residence in Kyoto from the Japan/U.S. Commission on the Arts.

Prior to the performance, guests had the opportunity to view original art from Mr. Charlip's *Arm in Arm (A Collection of Connections, Endless Tales, Reiterations, and other Echolalia)* — originally published by Parents Magazine Press in 1969 and newly reissued by Tricycle Press. In addition, he has written and illustrated 26 other children's books, including *Fortunately* (Parents Magazine Press, 1964), *Harlequin and the Gift of Many Colors* (1973) *and Mother, Mother, I Feel Sick, Send for the Doctor, Quick, Quick, Quick* (1966) (both with Burton Supree, Parents Magazine Press).



Jim Higgins

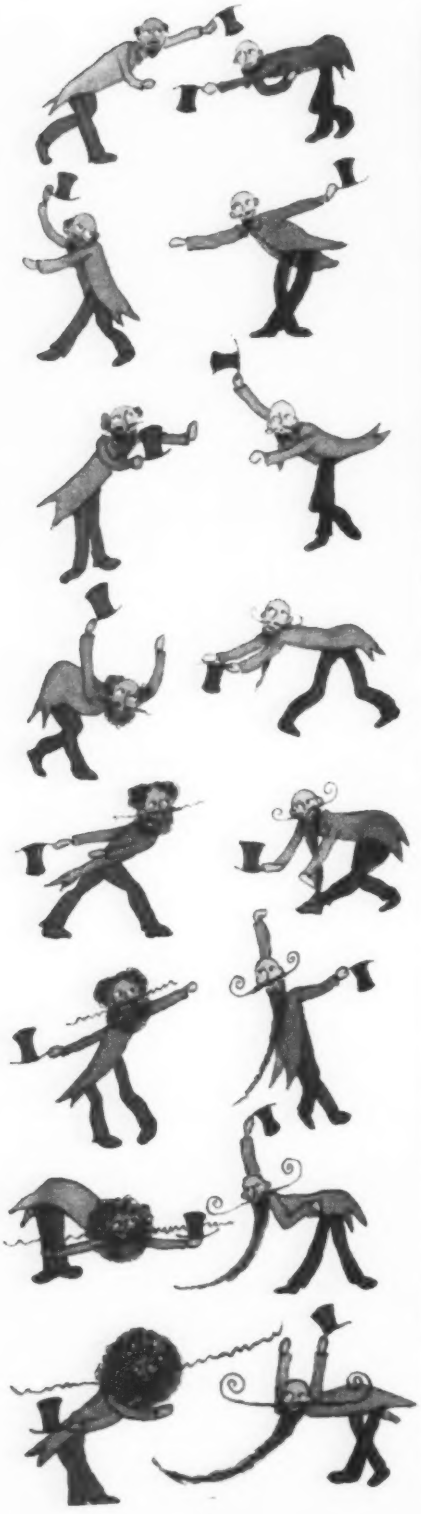
Author Remy Charlip at an April 24 event in his honor at the Library; an illustration from Mr. Charlip's *Arm in Arm*, recently reissued by Tricycle Press.

"Here is someone who transforms, embroiders and enchants ordinary experiences into magical excursions, encouraging children to imagine and improvise for themselves," Edith Cohen, a volunteer in the Children's Literature Center, said in a written tribute to Mr. Charlip. "His works abound in innovative narratives, wonderful word games, simple reading exercises with an appeal directly to children. There is no superfluous detail and lots of riddles, puns, jokes, chants, word-games and illustrations — tempera, watercolors, cartoons and collages, silhouettes and simple line drawings."

In her welcoming remarks, Sybille A. Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center, told of her appreciation for Mr. Charlip's work since her days as a children's librarian in a large public library. Ms. Jagusch hailed the reissue of *Arm in Arm* (long out of print), calling it "elegant and whimsical."

The guest of honor was introduced by his longtime friend, prominent children's book writer and illustrator Vera B. Williams, who collaborated with Mr. Charlip on her first book, *Hooray for Me*. "Remy has influenced me and my work since I've known him," Ms. Williams said. "I've always drawn inspiration by the marvelously light way his imagination goes from page to page."

She also appeared — along with several of Mr. Charlip's friends — in the book *Dress Up and Let's Have a Party*. "I almost came today dressed as a plate of spaghetti and meatballs, as in the book," she said, then introduced her



Jim Higgins

Mr. Charlip and longtime friend and collaborator Vera B. Williams greet the audience in the Mumford Foyer.

friend as a "master shower and teller."

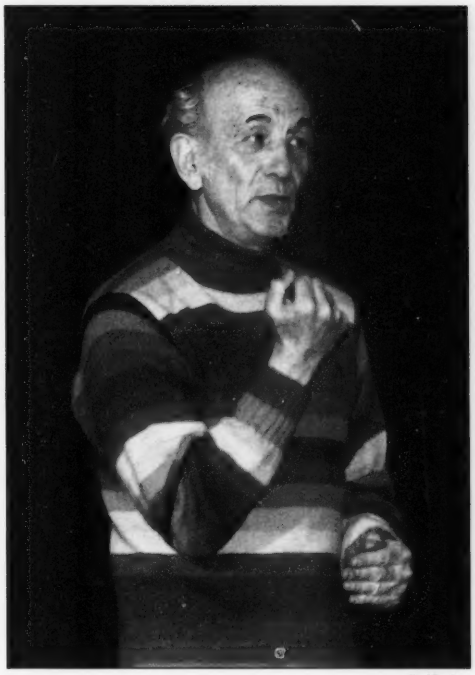
"I don't know if I can live up to all of that," began Mr. Charlip, "but I have always wanted to do picture books for children." Using slide and video presentations, Mr. Charlip touched on a few of the highlights of his varied career and the approaches he has taken to books, plays and dance. His first book, *Dress Up and Let's Have a Party*, was hailed along with Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat* as "revolutionary readers" of the time.

With the book as their inspiration, his theater troupe the Paper Bag Players used everyday household items — boxes, bags, buckets and mops — as costumes and sets. Touring in schools, Mr. Charlip involved the children directly in this process, encouraging them to create paper-bag hand puppets and then interact with them.

For example, one child from an inner-city school drew two puppets — a run-down tenement and a new, shining, clean apartment building. In the child's hands, the new building savagely and loudly attacked and beat the filthy tenement. Mr. Charlip was surprised to learn that prior to this, the child had never spoken. "Can you see a better argument for us to have art and drama?" he asked.

He also embraced dance and choreography, including a stint directing the National Theatre for the Deaf. Finding himself physically separated from the group for a time, he developed "airmail dances" — step-by-step dance designs illustrated in sequential, cartoon-like format. Mr. Charlip showed slides of these designs then video clips of the final choreography danced live.

At this point, theater director Lucinda Ziesing and a group of children bounded on stage to perform selections from *Arm in Arm*, to the



Jim Higgins

Jim Higgins

An accomplished speaker of American Sign Language, Mr. Charlip performs one of his "Seven Songs"; young performers who assisted in the evening's performance.

delight of the audience. Mr. Charlip followed up with "Seven Songs" — vignettes of song, dance, sign and poetry ranging from the humorous ("When I'm with you/The sky is blue./When I'm without you./The sky is still blue.") to a poignant verse about a child growing up in a violent home.

The program concluded as Ms. Jagusch conducted an interview with the artist. As to the source of his inspiration, Mr. Charlip said, "I really don't know where it all comes from. I'm in another world — and I'm very lucky." He explained that the various disciplines that he has explored — dance, art, writing, design — are different worlds. He said he sought to find the connections among them, and how each gives strength and inspiration to his efforts in the other areas. "The 'airmail dances' would have never happened unless I was both a dancer and an artist," he said.

Mr. Charlip said that all his books intentionally look different from one another. For each, he chose different collaborators or took pains to explore different writing and illustrative styles. "How I look at subjects, people and things are different, so I like to bring that to the books," he said.

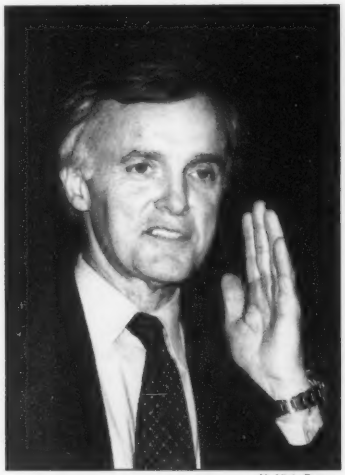
He said he was pleased to be returning to children's books after a 10-year hiatus. "I love sequence — how one thing follows another. That's why I love picture books. When you're reading to a child, he can't wait to get to the next page. 'Turn the page, turn the page!' That's because each new page is a door to another different world."

"It's important that we understand the way children think and feel," he said.

"A Celebration of Remy Charlip" was made possible by Lloyd E. Cotsen of Los Angeles. Further support was provided by Hidekazu Sato, Koguma Publishing Company Ltd. (Tokyo), Lucas-Evans Books (Chatham, N.J.), Tricycle Press (San Francisco) and the Children's Literature Center Fund.

The Children's Literature Center in the Library of Congress has been, since its founding in 1963, a supporter of the study and use of children's books. It provides information to children's book specialists and the general public. It recommends and acquires children's books for the Library's collections and organizes lectures, symposia and celebrations. All programs are supported by the Children's Literature Center Fund, which was established to help advance the center's work.

— John Sayers



N. Alicia Byers

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Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) read his eulogy to Lewis Puller, a fellow Vietnam veteran, and the Rev. Clarence Newsome re-created Frederick Douglass's eulogy to Abraham Lincoln during the May 14 "Great American Portraits" event.

Eloquence for the Departed

Notables Read from The Book of Eulogies *at Library*

On May 14 the Center for the Book presented "Great American Portraits," a public program drawing on Phyllis Theroux's just published *The Book of Eulogies: A Collection of Memorial Tributes, Poetry, Essays and Letters of Condolences.* Part of the center's "Books and Beyond" lecture series, the program epitomized the written word as votive offering.

N. Alicia Byers

Livingston Biddle, in period costume, read the eulogy his great-great grandfather wrote for Thomas Jefferson.

Drawing from selections by Americans about Americans, the event featured readings by the Rev. Clarence G. Newsome of Howard University; Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.); television commentator Cokie Roberts; former Sen. Eugene McCarthy; Livingston Biddle, the great-great grandson of Thomas Jefferson's contemporary Nicholas Biddle; and actress Brenda Brown-Grooms. Some of the speakers, such as Sen. Kerry, read eulogies they had prepared for departed friends and family. Others, including Mr. Newsome and Ms. Grooms, read tributes from the past, such as Frederick Douglass's eulogy of Abraham Lincoln.

Ms. Theroux, who compiled the book and introduced the readers, said she felt less like an editor and more like a hostess who had just put together a great party. "Books can be fun," she said, drawing a nod of approval from Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. In compiling the book, which draws on eulogies, letters of condolence and elegiac literature written in the last two centuries, Ms. Theroux said she learned that a great eulogy is always a double portrait, one that reveals as much about the speaker as the subject. Memorable eulogies, she said, share a common thread. "When these people died," Ms. Theroux said, "somebody wrote about them uncommonly well."

Rev. Newsome, dean of the Howard University School of Divinity, commanded the audience's attention as he re-created Frederick Douglass's eulogy of Abraham Lincoln, delivered in 1876 at the dedication of the Freedman's Monument in Washington, D.C. Crafted in the embroidered rhetoric of the 19th century, the address reflects the ambivalent nature of Lincoln's relationship to the black Americans he eventually freed from bondage. Douglas does not varnish the truth about Lincoln's willingness to permit slavery in the South in order to save the Union, but asks his audience to consider Lincoln's achievement in terms of his time and position.

"Viewed from the genuine abolition ground, Mr. Lincoln seemed tardy,

cold and indifferent, but measuring him by the sentiment of his country, a sentiment he was bound as a statesman to consult, he was swift, zealous, radical and determined."

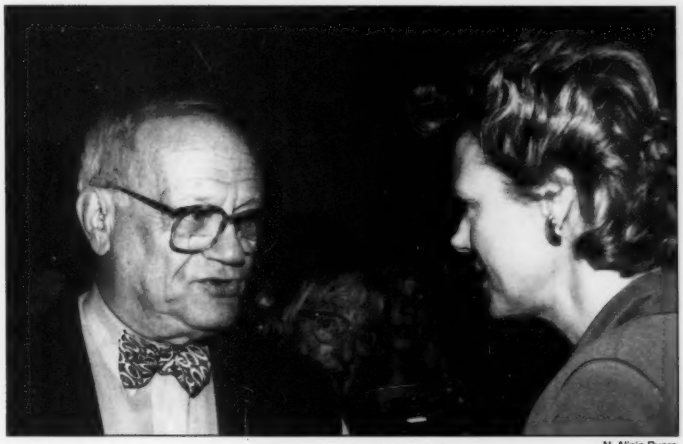
Sen. Kerrey read the previously undelivered eulogy he penned at the death of his friend and fellow Vietnam veteran Lewis B. Puller Jr. Crippled in 1968 at the age of 25, Puller's autobiography and wartime chronicle, *Fortunate Son: The Healing of an American Vet*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992. In his eulogy, written after Puller's suicide, Sen. Kerrey candidly and courageously expresses the concern that he, a busy politician, had not personally done enough to save his friend. "Reminding us of this would be a great legacy, Lew," he wrote, "If you snapped us out of this get-somebody-else-to-do-it stupor, that would be a great legacy."

Other readings included a reprise of the eulogy written for Thomas Jefferson by Philadelphia financier Nicholas Biddle, delivered by Biddle's great-great grandson Livingston Biddle in full 18th century regalia. Biddle's address focused on the untoward poverty that descended upon the great statesman and author of the Declaration of Independence in his old age.

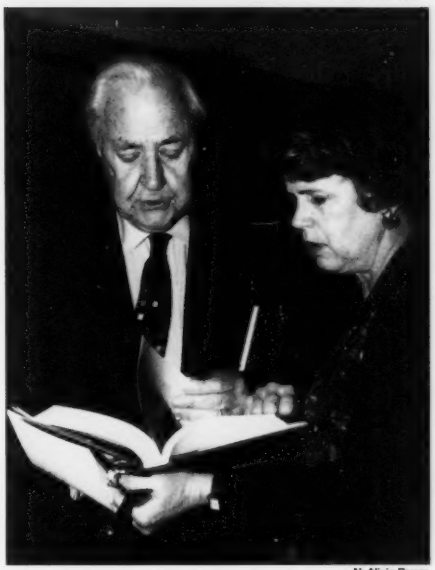
Actress Brenda Brown-Grooms assumed the role of Fannie Lee Chaney, mother of slain civil rights worker James Chaney, to read the eulogy she gave for her son, while Frank Mankiewicz, former press secretary to Robert F. Kennedy, read the impromptu address Kennedy delivered to a largely black audience in Indianapolis the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

Former Sen. Eugene McCarthy read the eulogy he wrote for fellow Minnesotan and political rival Hubert H. Humphrey. Mr. McCarthy broke ranks with the Democratic Party and Lyndon Johnson in 1968 in opposition to the Vietnam War. Humphrey, Johnson's vice president and a life-long advocate of civil rights and government social programs, received his party's nomination, but narrowly lost the presidential election to Richard M. Nixon. Humphrey, McCarthy fondly recalled, suffered the political curse of speaking memorably. "In American politics ... one can say rather extreme, even radical things, if one says them in such a way that people don't remember what one said or who said them. In Humphrey's case what was said was remembered, and it was also remembered that he said them."

One of the most moving eulogies was not a eulogy at all, but a poem, "Flesh of My Flesh," written by Barbara Boggs Sigmund before her death in 1990, and read by her sister, well-known Washington commentator Cokie Roberts. Her sister, Roberts said, was one of those people who understood that from the minute you are born, you are dying, and that learning this lesson changes one's approach to life. The dignity and wit with which Sigmund faced her own mortality appears in the verses she consciously directs to those yet unborn:



N. Alicia Byers



N. Alicia Byers

Frank Mankiewicz and Cokie Roberts following the program. Mr. Mankiewicz read the address that Robert Kennedy delivered the day Martin Luther King was killed. Ms. Roberts read a poem her sister had written before her death; Phyllis Theroux and former Sen. Eugene McCarthy discuss her new book.

"I write to you, ghostly little loves,/Present only in the loins and longings/Of your ancestors/Not to lecture you/That you are dust/And unto dust you will return,/(Though lectures I have heard)/Nor to ask that you should theorize/On spiritual and fleshly love, (Though theories I do know)/Nor even to tell you that live is good,/(For there are some of you/who think that,/And others who do not)/But simply to let you know,/(Though why I care I do not know)/That just as real as is the drop of sweat/Now running down my side,/In whose existence you will scarce/believe,/I was real once,/I was very real.

"Great American Portraits" was so successful, said Dr. Cole, that a similar program will be offered in the near future through the Illinois Center for the Book. That presentation will cover "funeral praise" written by and for Illinoisans, such as Carl Sandburg's eulogy of Abraham Lincoln.

Phyllis Theroux is the author of *California and Other States of Grace* and *Nightlights: Bedtime Stories for Parents in the Dark*. She is a magazine columnist, children's book writer and has been a regular essayist on "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

— *John Martin*

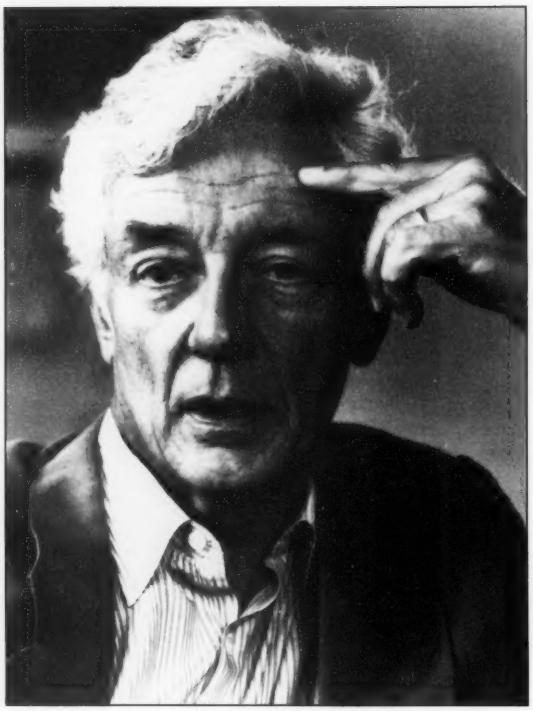
Mr. Martin is a copyright examiner in the Copyright Office.

Journalism: The State of the Art

Author Richard Reeves Speaks at Library

Changes in technology, rampant commercialism and the hawking of news as entertainment have revolutionized journalism and threaten its survival as a profession, warned Richard Reeves in a speech titled "Journalism: New, Old or Dead," delivered at the Library on April 10. Mr. Reeves, an award-winning author, syndicated columnist and filmmaker, was the speaker for the fifth annual Joanna Jackson Goldman Memorial Lecture on American Civilization and Government.

Dr. Billington introduced Mr. Reeves by recalling Oscar Wilde's observation that "in America, the president reigns for four years, and journalism governs forever and ever." The controversy surrounding the role of the media in shaping public opinion, "especially when it comes to television," Dr. Billington added, presented an apt topic for the Goldman lecture series, a program created to explore significant contemporary issues confronting American society.



Richard Reeves

A former chief political correspondent of *The New York Times*, Richard Reeves has been an editor and columnist for *New York* magazine and *Esquire*. His best-known work, *President Kennedy: Profile of Power*, received the PEN/Faulkner nonfiction book award in 1993. Mr. Reeves resides in New York, and is working currently on books about the Oregon Trail and the presidency of Richard Nixon.

Mr. Reeves admitted that the subject of the press and politics, or the media vs. politics, has been addressed in hundreds of lectures and studies. "But I'd like to discuss the press vs. the media," he said. "'Media' is a nasty little word imposed on us by the advertising industry in the 1920s." 'Media,' especially today's high-tech fusion of cable television, electronic information services and pop culture, has removed the filtering process of reporting, editing and writing that separates journalism from the raw act of communication, he said. "Journalists used to be like blacksmiths. We took hot stuff and pounded it into useful forms."

Mr. Reeves became a journalist by accident. Trained as a mechanical engineer, he entered the working world in the early 1960s. "Within a couple of years of my graduation, Texas Instruments began selling everything I ever knew for 10 bucks," he joked, "So I needed to find a job that would take just about anybody." The same technology that forced him to abandon his slide rule, the microcomputer chip, eventually transformed the "daily search for truth" that he says once defined journalism.

The relentless commercial pressure to sell "news product" based on consumer tastes and the isolating effects of computer-based reporting, Mr. Reeves explained, have resulted in a dramatic down-scaling of news-gathering operations.

"When we were rookies at *The New York Times*, if my colleagues and I were within sight of each other by noon, my editor would get on our case, 'What's wrong, why aren't you working?' He meant 'Why aren't you out getting stories?' Today, a young reporter who strays from her cubicle too long to conduct an interview invites the opposite rebuke, 'Why aren't you at your terminal?'" The faulty assumption here, according to Mr. Reeves, is that the Internet is the font of all news.

"Much of the so-called information explosion is smoke and mirrors." This is especially true of visual images, which are digitally manipulated, "re-purposed," and endlessly regurgitated. But news organizations cannot afford to ignore the new technology, which is popular because of its sheer force to entertain, he said.

The problem with what Mr. Reeves described as "newspapers pulling down the shade on their window to the world and holding up a mirror to their audiences" is that the press becomes trapped in the central dilemma of democracy itself: Given the freedom to choose, people often make the wrong choice. Although information is not knowledge, the press and its audience are living in a state of perpetual "data siege." Mr. Reeves worries that polls and focus groups are being used to create what Alexis de Tocqueville considered the greatest threat to American society — a new kind of tyranny of the majority.

According to Mr. Reeves, the pressures of instant communication and continuous coverage have had less impact on newspapers than on television news organizations, which occupy an uncomfortable middle

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The Dutch View of Don Quixote

Poet Cees Nooteboom Discusses New Work

Dutch poet and travel-writer Cees Nooteboom read from his works on May 19 and brought to life the mise-en-scène of Don Quixote of La Mancha.

"The light is false, a leaden gray streaked with brass like the backdrop of a tragic opera. And of course they are not windmills but men wildly flailing their arms, dangerous warriors, high-born knights. Nabokov, who devoted an exhaustive study to the Don, says succinctly: 'Notice how alive the windmills are in Cervantes' description,'" Mr. Nooteboom said, "And alive is what they are:

> Look over there, friend Sancho Panza, where more than thirty monstrous giants appear. I intend to do battle with them and take all their lives ...
>
> As he spoke, he dug his spurs into his steed Rocinante, paying no attention to his squire's shouted warning that beyond all doubt they were windmills ... Covering himself with his shield and putting his lance in the rest, he urged Rocinante forward at a full gallop and attacked the nearest windmill, thrusting his lance into the sail. But the wind turned it with such violence that it shivered his weapon in pieces, dragging the horse and his rider with it, and sent the knight rolling badly injured across the plain.

... What you see as you approach Consuegra is the author's flash of inspiration. In a certain light, a certain configuration of clouds, the shimmering heat suspended over the plateau gives everything a spectral, unreal quality," Mr. Nooteboom continued. "It was Cervantes himself who recognized giants in these windmills before his Knight set eyes on them ... They are mills, to be sure, but with that one dead eye marking the pivot of the four revolving sails they are also living creatures in a menacing battle formation. I linger among the slate-colored rocky outcrops [of the castle ruins] gaze over the plateau stretching limitlessly westward, past the crumbling crenellated walls, and each time I turn I see the ever-watchful windmills silhouetted against the darkening, doom-laden sky."

In his first selection from the book *Roads to Santiago* (English translation 1997, Harcourt Brace), Mr. Nooteboom entranced the Mumford Room audience of 200 with his impressions of the paintings of court artist Diego Velásquez in the Prado. In other chapters he ponders such subjects as why Salvador Dalí depicted melting watches and the birth of the Gothic arch.

Yusef El-Amin

Dutch writer Cees Nooteboom and German/Dutch Area Specialist Margrit Krewson; Ms. Krewson, Mr. Nooteboom, Madelien de Planque of the Royal Netherlands Embassy and Prosser Gifford, director of the Office of Scholarly Programs

Yusef El-Amin

Mr. Nooteboom, who considers himself foremost a poet, also read two of his poems in Dutch and English so the audience, many of whom were Dutch, could hear his craft in his native tongue. The renowned contemporary Dutch author has published 10 books of poetry. This year, Sun & Moon Press in Los Angeles published an anthology of his poems, *The Captain of the Butterflies*.

He travels widely. His first novel, *Philip and the Others* (first published in 1954, English translation 1988, Louisiana State University Press), was inspired by a long hitchhiking trip he took through Europe. When he is not traveling, Mr. Nooteboom divides his time between Amsterdam and Berlin, retreating in the summer months to the Spanish island of Menorca in the Mediterranean. He has been going to Spain several times a year since 1954.

Mr. Nooteboom was born in The Hague in 1933. Early in life he wanted to be a Trappist monk because he was attracted by the possibility of staying in the same place forever, said Prosser Gifford, director of the Office of Scholarly Programs, introducing the speaker. "The abbot gave him a life of Abelard in Latin and said, 'When you finish translating this, come see me.' Now Abelard lies open to page 10 and Cees Nooteboom travels the world."

Later Mr. Nooteboom, in response to a question from the audience, said, "When you are a nomad, living in other countries gives you a remarkable distance from your own country."

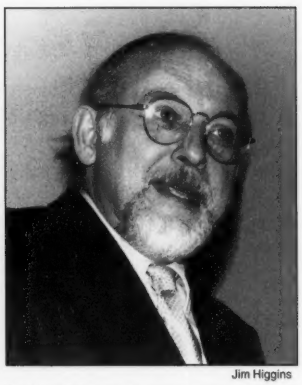
Said Mr. Gifford: "This is truly an international occasion, to have a Dutch author reading to us in English about Spain." The reading was sponsored by the Office of Scholarly Programs and the European Division, and coordinated by German/Dutch Area Specialist Margrit B. Krewson. A welcome was given by Madelien A.J. de Planque, counselor for press, public and cultural affairs for the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

It was the second time Mr. Nooteboom appeared at the Library. In 1984, he read from his works as part of "An Evening of Postwar Poetry of the Netherlands and Flanders." In addition, he has recorded for the Library's Archive of World Literature on Tape.

— *Yvonne French*

Ms. French is a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office.

Jim Higgins



Jim Higgins

Margherita D'Amico reads from her new book, *Rane [Frogs]*, as Carol Armbruster, Italian/French area specialist; and writers Alessandro Barbero; Melania Mazzucco; and Alain Elkann; as well as Anna Maria Rimoaldi listen; Vittorio Zucconi, journalist for *La Repubblica*, describes his experiences as a Strega Prize juror.

Il Premio Strega

Italian Literary Prize Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Strega Prize (Il Premio Strega), Italy's most prestigious literary prize, celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Library of Congress on May 8.

Sponsored by the European Division and the Italian Cultural Institute of Washington, D.C., the program included a historical review of the prize and its polemics, an anecdotal description of the election process and readings by the 1996 Strega Prize winner — Alessandro Barbero — and finalists. Fifty years of Strega Prize-winning books, plus most of the top five finalists of those years, were displayed for browsing by the participants and audience. The entire collection was presented to the Library by Anna Maria Rimoaldi, director of the Fondazione Maria e Goffredo Bellonci, which maintains the prize.

The Strega Prize originated in post-World War II Rome among a group of illustrious Italian writers, intellectuals, artists and musicians known as the Sunday Friends *(Amici della domenica)*. Maria Bellonci, a writer, and her husband, Goffredo, had hosted the Sunday Friends in their home since 1944 and thus maintained during the uncertain times of postwar Italy live and active discussions among many prominent personalities involved in Italian cultural life. In 1947 Maria and Goffredo Bellonci, along with Guido Alberti, decided to institute a new literary prize, one to be decided by the votes of the members of the Sunday Friends. Alberti, the owner of the firm that produced the Strega liqueur, provided the money for the prize and its name. A review of the prize-winning authors is in itself a review of 50 years of Italian cultural history.

The winners include such well-known names as Cesare Pavese, Alberto Moravia, Giorgio Bassani, Elsa Morante, Dino Buzzati, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, Carlo Cassola, Natalia Ginzburg, Giovanni Arpino, Anna Maria Ortese, Lalla Romano, Primo Levi, Umberto Eco, Gesualdo Bufalino and many more.

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Jim Higgins

Talking with 1996 Strega Prize winner Alessandro Barbero (holding his prize-winning book *Bella vita e guerre altrui di Mr. Pyle, gentilnomo)* are John Van Oudenaren, Carol Armbruster, and Donald Panzera, chief of Exchange and Gift; Mr. Panzera accepts the gift of the Premio Strega collection for the Library of Congress from Anna Maria Rimoaldi, director of the Fondazione Bellonci.

Jim Higgins

Historical Reflections

The United States and Poland Celebrate Friendship

The long history of Polish-American relations was the subject of a special program on May 2 held in the new European Reading Room in the Jefferson Building. The Library was honored by a visit from the prime minister of Poland, Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, and a lecture by noted historian Piotr Wandycz of Yale University. John Van Oudenaren, chief of the European Division, was host of the program, which was organized by Ronald Bachman, Polish area specialist in the European Division. The Federation of Polish Americans Inc. and Amplico Life S.A., the Polish subsidiary of AIG Inc., provided financial support for the event.

Dr. Billington welcomed the large audience and said, "It can only be seen as poetic justice that Poland, which played such a critical role in bringing about the end of communism in so many parts of the world and opening the way to a new European order, should be honored in the first public event in the new European Reading Room."

The centerpiece of the program was the first public showing in more than 70 years of "A Polish Declaration of Admiration and Friendship for the United States of America, Presented to President Coolidge on the 150th Anniversary of American Independence." Dr. Billington described the 111-volume gift as "possibly the largest expression of affection one nation ever made to another." The set contains signatures of some 5.5 million Polish citizens — one-sixth of the total population in 1926. The volumes are ornamented with brilliantly colored original illustrations by prominent Polish artists of the interwar period.

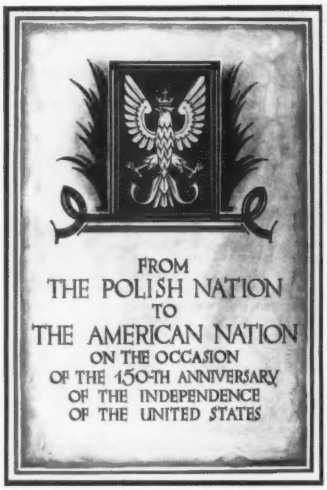
Jim Higgins

Dr. Billington and Ambassador Jerzy Kozminski observe as Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz signs a copy of the constitution of the Republic of Poland, which he presented to the Library; the leather and gilt binding of the first volume of the "Polish Declaration of Admiration and Friendship for the United States of America."

Prime Minister Cimoszewicz thanked the Library for recognizing the volumes of signatures on this special occasion, the eve of May Third Constitution Day. He described the gift as "proof of the deep commitment of the Polish people to the democratic ideals of the American people." The prime minister was particularly interested in pages from his home district, where his wife identified members of her family.

Polish Ambassador Jerzy Kozminski and other embassy officials delivered copies of a congratulatory message from President Aleksander Kwasniewski, which concluded with

A color brochure, by Zbigniew Kantorosinski of the Order Division, presents several dozen images from selected volumes of *The Polish Declaration of Admiration and Friendship*. Free copies can be obtained by writing to: European Division, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Washington, D.C., 20540-4830. The on-line version can be viewed at: http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/european/polishex.html.



Title page from volume 1 of the "Polish Declaration of Admiration and Friendship for the United States of America," designed by Edmund John; a view of Kazimierez Dolny (Lublin province) by Wladyslaw Skoczylas, recognized as a master graphic artist and renowned for his brightly colored works inspired by Polish folk art; sheet decorated with dried flowers and photo of teachers and pupils at the public school at Wielki Klincz, Koscierzyna district.

the words, "I am convinced that this 'emblem of good will' will remain a symbol of the consolidating excellence of relations between the United States and Poland."

During his discussion of U.S.-Polish relations, Professor Wandycz commented on the historically different national psyches of the two countries. "The Poles are history-conscious," he said. "The burden of the past, often an unhappy past, weighs on them heavily. ... By contrast, Americans tend to look more toward the future. ... During the last 200 years, the American story has been a success story. The corresponding period for the Poles was totally different."

Mr. Wandycz noted that the Polish presence in America dates to the

Jim Higgins

Ambassador Kozminski, Prime Minister Cimoszewicz, Barbara Cimoszewicz and Zbigniew Kantorosinski of the Order Division examine one of the "Polish Declaration" volumes.

Jamestown colony in 1608 and that Polish national heroes Kosciuszko and Pulaski made important contributions to American victory in the Revolutionary War. "What is less well known is the important role the Americans played ... at the Warsaw parliament, which adopted the May 3, 1791, constitution."

Contrasting the United States and Poland in 1795-1918, when Poland ceased to exist as a state, he said, "the Poles, deprived of their statehood and rising against the partitioners again and again, were worthy of sympathy ... but did not figure as a political factor. ... In the last decades of the 19th century, the Polish question largely disappeared from the agenda of international politics."

The two world wars broadened the U.S. global outlook and brought greater attention to the Polish cause. According to Mr. Wandycz, President Wilson's championship of an independent Poland at Versailles "proved very important for the rebirth of the Polish state." During World War II, Poland "was an occupied country divided between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, whose inhabitants lived under a regime of terror. ... The only chance of success that the Polish diplomacy had was to convince Great Britain and particularly the United States that victory over Germany would be incomplete if Soviet Russia were to rule over half of Europe. But such arguments fell on deaf ears. ... The Polish question became part of a larger problem: that of the division of Europe and of the Cold War."

Mr. Wandycz briefly highlighted various American initiatives during the postwar years, praising President Kennedy's assistance; noting that President Johnson "emphasized trade, the flow of ideas, visitors and humanitarian aid"; and citing President Nixon's visit to Warsaw. "The American role in the Solidarity crisis was on the whole positive and imaginative. The American stand may well have prevented an invasion in 1980." Remarking on current cultural trends, he said, "We are witnessing an Americanization of Poland."

Mr. Wandycz concluded by stressing his optimism for the future of U.S.-Polish relations, that Poland wants only to be a "European country remaining true to its old heritage while building a better future."

— Susan Manus

Ms. Manus is a Music Specialist for the National Digital Library Program.

Strega

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Since the death of Maria Bellonci in 1986, the prize has been administered by the Fondazione Maria e Goffredo Bellonci. On July 3, 1997, the 50th Strega Prize will be announced in the ceremony traditionally held in the garden of the Villa Giulia in Rome.

The collection of the Premio Strega books donated to the Library will be housed in the newly opened European Reading Room, where readers are invited to browse and read a full 50 years of Italian cultural history.

— Carol Armbruster
French and Italian Area Specialist

Mellon

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domestic European politics, using, among other sources, legal inquiries and parliamentary commissions from several countries.

Frans Coetzee and Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee (George Washington University, Washington, D.C.) applied together for a single fellowship. Their research project examines the consequences of the 1914-18 war for civilian populations in Germany and Britain: "Defining the Nation: Citizenship, Nationalism and War in Germany and Britain, 1914-19." At the Library, they will be working with wartime pamphlets, periodicals, posters, newspapers, judicial decisions and parliamentary debates.

Ann Farnsworth-Alvear (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia) plans to focus on the Colombian rainforest region of the Choco, where black subsistence farmers have successfully used ecological arguments to sustain their rights to land. Her research will develop "The Practice of Community in the Colombian Choco." Research in Colombian and related materials (including legal documents, ethnographic films and historical maps) will be coordinated with additional field research.

Excavation of a mid-18th century shipwreck off the Egyptian Red Sea coast provides a unique opportunity for Cheryl Haldane (Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M University, College Station) to examine the international, seaborne trade system that stretched from Istanbul to China. "Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean Trade in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries" will use consular reports, travel accounts, cartographic resources and to some extent contemporary Ottoman and Arabic documents to place in a broad context the detailed archaeological record provided by the ship, its crew and its cargo.

The research of Thomas E. Keirstead (State University of New York at Buffalo) is an extended examination of Japan's medieval period. In "Reclaiming Japan's Past: Reinventing the Middle Ages, Reinventing Asia," he will examine the varying interpretations of the "middle ages," a concept developed in Japan in the 1890s. He will contrast in particular the masculine and military view of medieval Japan portrayed earlier with more recent emphases on heterogeneity and ties with China and Korea. A wide range of Japanese historical writing will be used, including such materials from popular culture as film, television and best-selling literature.

Each fellow will present the results of his or her research to an invited audience during the course of the fellowship.

Competitions will be held again in 1998 and 1999. Materials about the 1998 competition should be available by late summer 1997.

Tara Holland and reading promotion partners participated in the March 20-21 "Building a Nation of Readers" events, as did Reading Is Fundamental Chair Lynda Robb and Carolyn Staley of the National Institute for Literacy.

News from the Center for the Book

Reading Promotion Partners Meet at LC

Representatives of educational and civic organizations from the Center for the Book's network of national reading promotion partners met at the Library of Congress on March 20-21 to discuss the importance of literacy and launch "Building a Nation of Readers," the center's national reading promotion campaign for 1997-2000.

More than 50 organizations are active Center for the Book "reading promotion partners." Each works with the center to promote literacy and reading by using themes and ideas developed by the Center for the Book and other groups. Reading promotion partners meet annually at the Library to exchange ideas and learn about Center for the Book themes and projects.

Tara Holland, Miss America 1997, was a special guest on both days. A congressional luncheon sponsored by the National Newspaper Foundation was the featured event on March 20. The foundation is one of the center's reading promotion partners and part of the National Newspaper Association, which represents America's community newspapers. More than 75 members of Congress attended the luncheon in the Library's Montpelier Room. Brief remarks were presented by Dr. Billington and Ms. Holland, who is the official campaign spokesperson for the Center for the Book's "Building a Nation of Readers" campaign.

Dr. Billington opened the March 21 press conference by noting that the Library will observe its bicentenary in the year 2000. He also introduced a special guest, Walter Anderson, editor of *Parade* magazine and a commissioner of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

Press conference highlights included the unveiling of a "Building a Nation of Readers" campaign poster featuring Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy, donated by Jim Henson Productions; the opening of the since-closed photography exhibition "Library: The Drama Within," which draws on the book of the same title published in 1996 by the University of New Mexico Press in association with the Center for the Book; and an informal question-and-answer session between Ms. Holland and members of the press. Other highlights were a drawing for the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) national "Reader of the Year," featuring RIF Chair Lynda Johnson Robb and RIF President Ruth Graves. There was also a program launching the National Institute for Literacy's (NIFL) public awareness campaign, "Literacy: It's a Whole New

World." NIFL Deputy Director Carolyn Staley moderated this portion of the program, which featured remarks from Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley and Rep. Thomas C. Sawyer (D-Ohio) as well as new adult learners.

Later, organizational representatives discussed their ideas on use of the "Building a Nation of Readers" theme, moderated by Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. Center for the Book founder, Librarian of Congress Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin and his wife, Ruth, also participated.

Forty-one organizations participated. They represented a wide range of civic, educational and governmental offices, including Armed Services YMCA, the Association of Youth Museums, Cartoonists Across America, Children's Television Workshop, the Congress of National Black Churches, Everybody Wins, Friends of Libraries USA, the General Federation of Women's Clubs International, Girl Scouts of the USA, the International Reading Association, the Lutheran Church Library Association, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Association of University Women, the National Council on the Aging, the National Federation of Press Women, the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the U.S. Postal Service, the Weekly Reader Corporation and the Women's National Book Association.

Susan Thompson-Hoffman of the U.S. Department of Education gave a presentation about President Clinton's "America Reads" Challenge ("to make sure that every child is literate by the end of the third grade") and about the Department of Education's "Read*Write*Now" summer reading program.

■ **Live Teleconference Hosted.** On May 20, the Center for the Book hosted the Department of Education's monthly "Satellite Town Meeting," which was co-chaired by Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley and Carol Rasco, the director of the department's "America Reads" Challenge. The live, interactive teleconference was filmed in the Northwest Gallery of the Library's newly restored Jefferson Building. The discussion, which focused on summer reading for children, was broadcast via satellite to thousands of communities nationwide through local cable access channels, the Public Broadcasting System, Channel One and the Discovery Channel. A short film about the renovated Jefferson Building was shown and the reading promotion activities of the Center for the Book were described (the July issue of the LC *Information Bulletin* will include a report).

Jim Higgins

Parade magazine Editor Walter Anderson (left) and Dr. Billington participated in a panel that discussed literacy in America.

■ **Documenting LC.** Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole is the author of several recent articles and essays, including "Libraries, Literacy, and the Library of Congress" in the May 1997 issue of *American Libraries;* "Publishing at the Library of Congress: A Brief History," in the summer 1996 issue of *Publishing Research Quarterly;* and the "Library of Congress" entries in the 1997 edition of Collier's Encyclopedia and the International Encyclopedia of Information and Library Science (Routledge, 1997).

■ **Forthcoming speakers.** These presentations, which are free and open to the public, will take place in the Mumford Room of the James Madison Memorial Building at 6 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. July 1: historian Pauline Maier *(American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence);* July 21: writer Patricia Jean Wagner *(The Bloomsbury Review Booklover's Guide);* Oct. 29: novelist David Grossman *(The Zigzag Kid);* Oct. 31: historian Wayne A. Wiegand *(Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey)*, 4 p.m.

Reeves

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ground between printed news and cable news channels such as CNN. "The engine of democracy is what people know and when they know it," claimed Mr. Reeves, noting that today it would be impossible to hide for years the true extent of the damage inflicted by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, as did FDR, or to delay news of the discovery of gold in California, as did President James K. Polk.

By far the worst of television's sins, however, is the blurring of fact and fiction "that has made news a subset of entertainment," Mr. Reeves said. The parody news programs and confessional shows are based on the market ploy that "if it looks like news, walks like news and quacks like news, viewers will believe it must be news." These tabloid broadcasts survive by attaching themselves to the credibility of old-fashioned journalism.

Mr. Reeves concluded with a grim assessment of journalism's future. Technology is a fact of life. Journalists must learn to cope with the new media, as politicians and corporations have done, while trying to recognize its strengths and weaknesses. The pressures of commercialization are bound to increase, especially as converging communications technology brings financial giants into direct competition with the traditional press.

If journalism is to survive, it will do so only by rededicating itself to the daily search for the truth, and by focusing on what is real, not mock. People will pay for the truth, says Mr. Reeves. "The truth may or may not set us free, but it might keep us working."

— John Martin

Mr. Martin is a copyright examiner in the Copyright Office.

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